

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By JOSEPHINE K. HENRY.

From Columbus, Ohio, a special to the press says "The local Circuit Court today, Nov. 4th, held that church parsonages, priest's houses, and Bishop's palaces ARE subject to taxation."

And why indeed should they not be? This is a just decision and all the courts in our country having jurisdiction in this matter should decide without delay that not only the houses of the clergy but all church property should be put on the tax list and made to pay its just proportions of taxes. Our National and State Constitutions declare that church and State are separate, but as long as church property is exempt from taxation, we defy the Constitution and have a union of church and state. Why should a Bishop's palace be exempt and the wash-woman's or day laborer's hovels be burdened with enormous taxes? Why should mission churches be exempt and flouring mills, shoe factories and the humble homes of the poor have taxes piled upon them? The health, wealth and prosperity of the people depend on the work of the laborers, the crops, factories, foundries, mercantile and commercial enterprises. The churches do not contribute in the smallest degree to the health, support, education, wealth or welfare of the people. They occupy the most expensive building cities and for six days in the week while humanity is laboring and struggling to support, educate, and elevate itself, the churches are shut up and appear cold and dark as vaults, and on the seventh day when they open their doors they teach a pot pourri of mysteries and myths that never have, and never will be understood, or proven, and for this, they are exempt from taxation, and they have protection and privileges not accorded to the heaviest tax-payers. If a man or woman paid taxes on a million dollars worth of property and tried to teach from their own doctrines any of the Oriental religions, Mormonism, the rights of Reason, or any other cult, they would be debarred the privilege and declared a nuisance, but the churches are protected from even question or protest while they teach cruel, absurd and impossible doctrines. The laws of our land declare that this government recognizes no religion, yet all legislation defers to, or is in the interest of, the Christian religion, and it exempts hundreds of millions of church property from taxation. This is at once unjust and un-American. If every church in the United States were closed for a year it would not be in the least affected the welfare of the country or any class except the clergy, but if the agriculturalist should not plant and reap his crop, the mills and factories shut down, the shops close up, and transportation cease for just one year the condition of our people would be desperate indeed.

In face of this fact why should the useful employments and utilities be taxed to the utmost and the church that renders no useful service be exempt from taxes?

The church has extorted more tribute from governments and the tolling millions than any institution that ever was on the earth, and yet it cannot be proven that it ever lavished one poor tempest lost soul in heaven. Indeed, it has not and it never will prove that human beings have immortal souls, or that there is either a heaven or a hell. When the working people of the United States fully realize that they are burdened with taxes because the magnificent and growing possessions of the church are exempt from taxation the government will have to face this question and the sooner this is done the better for both the people and the churches. If churches were taxed the Christians would not erect churches that cost millions or hundreds of thousands as they do now, bankrupting congregations, and be forced to wheedle the money from the public by all sorts of schemes and devices to pay their debts. Tax the churches, and modest buildings will be considered good enough to worship the Lord in, and church beggars (all wives women) will not prey upon the public.

In every one of our state legislatures a bill for the taxation of church property should be introduced and championed by great and good Americans who realize the danger that threatens us, and the safety of clinging to fundamental principles. A religion that shrinks its honest debts and does not deal fairly with the government, cannot and will not support itself, is not worthy of the protection or aid of the people or the government.

The following from the Louisville Post will explain itself.

NOVEL SUBSCRIPTION

TO FOREIGN MISSIONS.
Harrisburg, Ky., Oct. 18.-Last

Sunday at the Bethel church, a novel subscription was taken up for the cause of foreign missions. There were about 200 women present, and nearly all of them are chicken raisers. The suggestion was made and adopted that the women give to foreign missions the proceeds from the sale of all eggs laid on the Sabbath.

There seems some thing very inconsistent about the adoption of this suggestion, and the teaching that we must "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Because all who do this, and a whole book full of other things are supposed to earn a deed to a better lot in the New Jerusalem. The women of the Bethel church perhaps do not know that the Bible gives no hint that women go to heaven, and from recent decisions of the clergy there never was and there never will be a woman angel. Yet here is a case of women and hens breaking one of the ten commandments to carry on foreign mission work.

The hens are supposed to be industrious seven days in the week, and we women suspend their devotions long enough to keep the hens at home properly to business, and gathering the hen fruit, which in both cases is contrary to scripture teaching, and all this is done to try and

"Save the heathen in his blindness Who bows down to wood and stones."

The idea might be suggested that perhaps the heathen at our doors need the attention of all the women and hens that will enable in the soul saving business. "Eggs is high now" and the money raised by the industry of the hens, turned over to the machine manipulators of church funds by the women might do some good mission work in our slums, alleys, and negro huts. Money makes the missionary go to foreign lands, and he or she takes up the hopeless task of converting the so-called heathen nations whose population is so great, that if they desired in procession to abreast, it would take more than 50 years for them to pass. The women and the hens do not know what a contract they have entered into and it is well they do not. It is an unfair business all around, making the hens do the work and the women make the sacrifice of giving the eggs to save the heathen. The average woman is not a capitalist, and largely the majority have not even a hen to bring them in a little pocket money, but when the church ceases to call on women to make sacrifices for their religion, the church will go out of business, and the heathen can go head-long to destruction.

Here is how one man in the religious state of Indiana, "loves, honors and cherishes" his wife. The press prints the following:

WITH A BED SLAT

He Hit His Wife, and Doctors Say Her Child May Be Dead.

Wabash, Ind., July 25.—P. L. Freeman was today convicted of assault and battery and sentenced to serve eight months in jail. Last night he attacked his wife with a bed slat and beat her brutally. It is thought she may not recover, and physicians think her unborn child was killed. Should the woman die Freeman will be re-arrested on a murder charge. She is in a precarious state tonight.

I wonder if this is one of the methods of "loving, honoring and cherishing" his wife, while here in Kentucky, we send a negro to the penitentiary for stealing bacon from a smoke-house, for a term of five years. P. L. Freeman, perhaps, his name was Paul Luke, and he was living up to his Christian privileges. Paul, the saint, says "The husband is the head of the church." A woman who had such a head, would be better off without any head at all. Paul says too, that "women are commanded to be under obedience" and this poor woman's obedience to do not put herself and unborn child under the good of Cardinal Gibbons, who seems to know more about the duties of women, than any one except G. Cleveland, says that "it is the duty of all women to obey at home, minister to their husbands, and take the Virgin Mary for the model." Poor Mrs. Freeman might have been trying to do her Christian duty, but a bed slat in the hands of a brute, prevented her from trying, and the man who a living child as the Virgin Mary did, I do not know how the church will deal with such a case, or with the tens of thousands of women who have no homes, and no husbands. One Frenchman certainly did man who brutally murdered his wife and unborn child, even if sent to the scaffold for the crime is pursued to the

last moment of his life by the clergy, who groom him for heaven, and he is assured he will exchange the place cap for a stary crown. Isn't it about time to stop the brutal butchery of women in the United States? An unfair election campaign, more devoted from the clergy than the murder of thousands of wives every year in the United States. We have societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals is it not high time we had a society for the prevention of wife murder? Such societies are absolute necessities in our Christian civilization.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

For some time I have been engaged writing a pamphlet on the question, the most vital one President Roosevelt says that the American people have to deal with. The President is right on this point. Marriage and Divorce is the most important question of our time, and on its proper solution depends the weal or woe of the American Republic. I have finished this pamphlet and it is now in the hands of my publisher, Mr. James E. Hughes of the Blue Grass Blade, at Lexington, Ky. He assures me that it will come from the press and be ready for mailing by December 10th, and I shall on that date begin filling all orders for them. I have not in treating the subject dealt with the evolution of marriage or statistics on the question, but have dealt with Marriage and Divorce as it is right now today. Up to this time men have had much to say on the question from the pulpit and platform and through the press, and made all the law in church and State governing the system. Women have been wonderfully silent on the most vital question in life to them, and they have been entirely tabooed by the masculine writers and legislators. I view the question from a woman's stand point, and have endeavored to throw a radium light on the so-called sacred institution of marriage. I have endeavored to be fair and deal in facts, actual conditions and truths as they lie all about us. If I am in error on any point I will be glad to be shown wherein. Some of the truths may be honestly, but they are truths none the less. No language can convey the truth.

I have not touched on the man's side of the question for if the men are wrongs in the system that bring misery and wreck homes and happiness, men make all the laws in church and State that shape and rule the system and they have the remedy in their own hands. Surely it will not be considered presumptuous for one woman to express her honest thoughts on the subject most vital to her sex.

The Women's Clubs of the United States will find some suggestions for PRACTICAL work in this pamphlet instead of discussing painted pottery, Greek dramas, and dead poets, which are of no earthly use except to kill time and blind their eyes to real conditions.

Nearly 400 copies of this pamphlet have been ordered. All persons who have ordered it, are requested to send a money for same. The price of the pamphlet is 25 cents for one copy, or five copies for \$1.00. All orders should be sent to me at Versailles, Ky., as I will send out the entire edition.

Of course it was because the church says all marriages are divine sacraments and mysteries. Then the Catholic church says that all marriages should be indissoluble, even if a man beats his wife and unborn child to death with a bed slat. Hon. P. L. Freeman gets the terrible sentence of eight months in jail for using this method of "loving, honoring and cherishing" his wife, while here in Kentucky, we send a negro to the penitentiary for stealing bacon from a smoke-house, for a term of five years. P. L. Freeman, perhaps, his name was Paul Luke, and he was living up to his Christian privileges. Paul, the saint, says "The husband is the head of the church." A woman who had such a head, would be better off without any head at all. Paul says too, that "women are commanded to be under obedience" and this poor woman's obedience to do not put herself and unborn child under the good of Cardinal Gibbons, who seems to know more about the duties of women, than any one except G. Cleveland, says that "it is the duty of all women to obey at home, minister to their husbands, and take the Virgin Mary for the model." Poor Mrs. Freeman might have been trying to do her Christian duty, but a bed slat in the hands of a brute, prevented her from trying, and the man who a living child as the Virgin Mary did, I do not know how the church will deal with such a case, or with the tens of thousands of women who have no homes, and no husbands. One Frenchman certainly did man who brutally murdered his wife and unborn child, even if sent to the scaffold for the crime is pursued to the

All orders for "Marriage and Divorce" promptly filled by addressing JOSEPHINE K. HENRY, Versailles, Kentucky.

SHORT LETTERS.

Canal Dover, Ohio.—Please send enclosed dollar for ten dollars for the benefit of the Blade. I feel so very sorry to learn that Brother Moore is so poorly. If I had faith in prayer, I would pray three times a day for his recovery. I want him to live till he is 100 years old, with health and mind and pen. I have no language to express my kind well wishes for him and his. I use by the Blade that the priests are already lying and defaming his character. Let us all stand by him against the lying priests and his enemies. It is only the truly honest man that asked forgiveness for wrongs that he might have done to his fellow man, as a human. I regard this as one of the greatest acts he ever did. This is positive proof to me that he is strictly honest. Let us know, every week, through the Blade as to his condition. Hoping you give us favorable news next week about Brother Moore, I am, with best wishes to all,

—S. TOOMBY

Ryan, Ind. Ter.—Please send enclosed \$1.00 for another year, as I cannot do without the Blade. In the debate between Wilkerson and Bro. Welch here, some time ago, it is said that Bro. Welch not the best of the argument all the way through. We think that Bro. Welch is the right man in the right place and that if we had more like him and fewer hypocrites everybody would be happier and the world better off. We are glad to note that your health is improving. Mr. W. R. Loyd, the greatest tattooed man in the whole world, is here and sends his sympathy and card to you.—M. C. MARTIN.

Concord, N. C.—I was, for ten years, a church member. For ten years I have been an Agnostic and expect to live and die such. I am battling, today, for the love of humanity and am happier than I was when I was all wrapped up in superstition. The only thing I regret is that I have not been taking the Blade for the last seven years. It is our duty to take all the Free Thought literature we can and pay who I like most. I expect to take the Blade and pay for it from now on. I hope that all Free Thinkers will help the Blade. I am very sad that our poor old leader friend, Mr. Moore, is in bad health and hope that he may soon be better so that he may go on with his good work.—J. R. CORRIHER

New York.—My dear Colonel Moore.—From a newspaper clipping just now received, I was pained to learn of your ill health, and my heart at once responded with sincere solicitude. You have always loved a good man, and have earnestly desired that all men were good. With your methods and treatment, I have not always agreed, but in whatever you have done or written I have recognized a purpose to rebuke sham and hypocrisy, and to encourage men to strive to measure up to the standard of Him who is the modern world with the Golden Rule. With sincere affection, yours very truly,—R. H. FITZ-HUGH.

Naples, N. Y.—I am very sorry because you are sick, but infirmities must come with old age, and I congratulate you upon so long a life of good health, intellectual vigor and activity. It seems to me that the usefulness of the Blade will be much increased by its adopting the policy of reaching to be good and practicing charity instead of indulging in vituperation.

But I may be wrong; both ways may be needed and helpful in the promotion of truth and in the well being of humanity—some people fitted for one way and some for the other and, perhaps, your vigorous denunciations have been needed, and more may be, and it may have done more good than milder language could have done.

Perhaps an editorial in the Democrat and Herald may apply to you as well as it did to William Lloyd Garrison, of whom it says "he never commended the unreserved admiration of his own people, even in the heart of the anti-slavery conflict. It is possible his denunciation of trimmers and compromisers, and especially his repudiation of the authority of the constitution, had some thing to do with his, yet he was, unquestionably, one of the mightiest of forces that led to the emancipation of the slaves in this country."—THOMAS J. POWELL.

East Lynne, Mo.—Ever since I read of your serious illness I have wanted to write you to know that it grieves me much. One great desire has been to shake hands with you, and, somehow, I hope. Dear Mr. Moore, I am only one of the many that are deeply concerned about you as the many thousands—show. You can rely on me. We want you with us. We want the good old Blade. We are not far from the same age, my advent on this sphere being in 1837. Since being a reader of the Blade, I have thought how much I would enjoy the acquaintance of your family. With warmest regards to Mrs. Moore, hoping this will find you well on the way to recovery, and anxiously for the Blade—EMILY C. JONES.

Hartford City, Ind., Nov. 15, 1905. Enclosed find order for subscription and a copy of Dr. Wilson's book. I am glad to see by the Blade that Brother Moore is feeling better. He is a man that I have longed to meet. I have heard my friends, the late Wm. Carroll Bowles and Miller say so many good things of him I am glad to be long to that family and sign myself

JOHN C. MOORE.

Grantfork, Ill., Nov. 19, 1905. Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, Ky. Mr. Hughes, I hope you will find post office money order for one dollar for J. B. Wilson's Rome Book, as I agreed to subscribe for it heretofore. I do hope there will be 10,000 copies sold, as Brother Wilson desires, to be the best piece of Free Thought, taking the name of R. G. Ingersoll's place, as he is really your next Bob Ingersoll, for whom I had my flags on poles at half mast for five days, not



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withstanding the criticisms, and as I would rather see one of my children die than him, for the good he has done for humanity in exposing the delusion of our sky pilots. Hoping that Mr. C. Moore will recover soon and wishing you success and a long and happy life, I remain yours truly,
A. J. KRAFT.

Winterset, Ia., Nov. 2, 1905. Mr. C. C. Moore and Wife: I read with sorrow and regret of the illness of Brother Moore. My love and sympathy go out to Sister Moore

(the h oettssunuchetashrd hrdn dl in her trouble, but I know she is brave and true and will help and comfort you (brother Moore) in your sickness. How it helps us when sick to have someone who is true and faithful to be with us. You, Sister Moore, have the love and help of a good kind heart and how lonely you would be if he is taken, for he surely is the greatest man of the day and has a host of warm true friends and I am sure his writings are doing good, and may live many days yet for he is yet young—Mrs. LILLIE A. ROGERS.